

Hyde County Office of Planning and Economic Development

January – March 2013
Volume 1, Issue 2

www.hydecountync.gov



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Engelhard Sanitary District

The ESD has been placed on moratorium for violations in regard to the liner of the wastewater treatment lagoon. The Moratorium has been advertised as required by NCDENR.

The Office of Economic Development and Planning is working as a liaison between the ESD Board and NC DENR's Division of Water Quality. A formal Memorandum of Agreement between the ESD and the County was adopted in January 2013. The MOA stipulates how the County and the ESD will work together on the

rehabilitation of the wastewater system and a sewer force main extension detailed below under the section entitled CDBG-Contingency – Sewer Project. The County will assist with regulatory compliance, seeking grant funding and any technical assistance needed to rectify the situation.

Our offices have diligently worked cooperatively with the ESD and NC DENR to submit an application for a Special Order by Consent during the month of February. After DENR's review and acceptance,

the ESD can enter into the Special Order by Consent. Entering into the Special Order by Consent binds the ESD to a plan of action to rehabilitate the lagoon within an adopted time frame.

The Office of Economic Development and Planning will continue to support the ESD in their efforts by attending their regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Hyde Davis Business Enterprise Center. Also our office will assist in applying for funding to rehabilitate the wastewater system and provide technical assistance during the rehabilitation.

CDBG – Contingency – Sewer Project

The CDBG – Contingency Sewer Project is currently in the preconstruction phase. The project will extend Engelhard Sanitary District service from its current end at Martelle's Feedhouse to Greenhill Road.

The \$600,000 sewer improvement grant will connect 44 residential lots to the Engelhard Sanitary District through construction of a 7,650 LF 6-inch SDR 21 PVC force main extension eastward from the existing western terminus of the existing ESD force main.

The project was permitted prior to the moratorium on the ESD; however Environmental

Clearinghouse comments must be addressed and deemed allowable to move forward with this project while the ESD Lagoon failure is being examined and rectified. (See above section: Engelhard Sanitary District.)

Holland Consulting Planners (HCP) has been selected to complete the CDBG administration and Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates

(HUA) has been selected to provide engineering services.

Hyde County does intend to go to bid for the construction of the extension in late March to early April. Bid packages for prospective contractors are available by contacting our office.

After selection of the contractor, construction will begin and should be completed by late summer.



Outer Banks Catch is a Currituck, Dare, Hyde and Tyrrell County program designed to promote and educate seafood lovers about the numerous advantages of requesting what's in season and locally caught.

From Columbia to Swan Quarter, Ocracoke to Corolla, the Outer Banks has a multi-generational community of commercial fishermen who earn their living harvesting fresh, healthy seafood. In fact, the Outer Banks region is the largest in terms of revenue and the importance of commercial fishing in the state of North Carolina. Equally, our unique Atlantic coast ecosystem contributes to one of the most diverse, year-round selections of fish and shellfish available. For our commercial fishermen, it's a hard day's work getting even harder with increasing regulations.

Commercial fishing is our heritage and means everything to the working watermen and local economy. Despite our plentiful catch, did you know 80% of all seafood served nationally is imported and of those imports only 2% is FDA inspected?

Now in the 21st century, many of our Outer Banks commercial fishing families are in danger of disappearing. The U.S. fishing industry is being hit hard by such factors as increased and ever-changing regulations, rising fuel costs and importation of foreign seafood. According to the NC Division of Marine Fisheries, the influx of cheap imported fish and shellfish has driven down prices to those earned in the 1960s. As a result, many fishermen are being forced to find other professions, and the long, hard hours in exchange for low pay are deterring future generations from carrying on the family business.

(This section of text was taken from the Outer Banks Catch website:

www.outerbankscatch.com)

NC Catch

On Thursday, February 21, members of NC Catch came together at the Coastal Studies Institute in Skyco for a Board retreat with the mission of setting goals for 2013.

North Carolina Catch supports the work of the four local seafood promotion initiatives that stretch from Currituck County to Brunswick County.

Carteret Catch, Ocracoke Fresh, Brunswick Catch, and Outer Banks Catch have emerged as the buoys and markers that guide consumers to local fish and shellfish sources. The groups help educate consumers on the culinary and nutritional rewards of choosing local seafood, as well as the economic, cultural, and ecological benefits for local communities and for the state.

North Carolina Catch is a nonprofit umbrella organization that ties the work of the local groups together to foster collaboration, to strengthen communication, and to enhance a statewide and national presence.

North Carolina Catch was established in 2012 with

assistance from Saltwater Connections, a regional economic development initiative funded by the NC Rural Economic Development Center.

Hyde County's Planner and Economic Developer is a Charter Member of Outer Banks Catch, an Economic Development Advisor to Ocracoke Fresh and a Charter Member and Executive Committee Member of North Carolina Catch.

North Carolina Catch Board members include representatives from all four Catch groups, the NC Farm Bureau Federation, NC DENR, NC Department of Agriculture, NC Sea Grant, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, the Conservation Fund, NC Marine Fisheries, the UNC School of Government, the Southern Shrimp Alliance, industry activists, media experts, fishing related business owners and local government staff/ elected officials.

The goals for developed for 2013 include: Infrastructure & leadership development, Fundraising and Resource Identification and Marketing. The organization formed in February of 2012 and

accomplished many things over the last year including the development of a website:

<http://www.nccatch.org/>

The purpose of NC Catch is to support the local CATCH programs found in Hyde, Carteret, Brunswick, Dare, Currituck and Tyrrell counties by creating an "invisible umbrella" to help bolster collaboration, resources (human and financial) and long-term success for the local CATCH programs.

CATCH programs (Outer Banks Catch, Ocracoke Fresh, Carteret Catch and Brunswick Catch) are local initiatives to educate the public on the importance of "buying local" seafood. Those reasons include increased awareness of the quality of local seafood and its health benefits, supporting local economies and the continuation of the local commercial fishing heritage that sustains local fishing communities' sense of place and contributes to heritage tourism development.



2013 Catch Summit

The 2013 Local Catch Summit - **Bringing Seafood into the Local Food Movement** was held February 22 at the Coastal Studies Institute on the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina. Highlights included a tour of the Wanchese Village Fish Houses and a variety of

panels and presentations from leaders and experienced entrepreneurs in the local seafood movement. All events were open to the public.

Hyde County is known for so many wonderful things. Among them is our commercial fishing

heritage. Throughout Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell Counties, there are many 2nd and 3rd generation commercial fishermen who earn their living bringing fresh, seasonal seafood to your table and tables across the state.

Airport Improvements and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project

It is an exciting time at the Engelhard Airport! Installation of the fuel tank is complete and fuel is being sold! Waterfowl season brought an influx of customers. In order to continue to safely provide fuel sales, the Airport Manager who attended Quality Control training in October 2012, services the tank on a daily basis. This type of training will be required on a yearly basis to remain compliant with safety regulations.

In addition to the fuel tanks, the resurfacing of the runway is has been completed. The light in the Beacon and the supporting photocell has been replaced, as well as the windsock and seven runway lights. Unicom radios are now being used so the Airport Manager can monitor and communicate with General Aviation traffic and a computer system has been placed in the terminal. All of these upgrades have been made possible through NC DOT Aviation funding.

Hyde County, in conjunction with the NC DOT Department of Aviation, North Carolina's Northeast Commission and the Next Gen Air Transportation Center at NC State are partnering to develop an area in and around the Engelhard Airport to test Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA). The Engelhard Airport is currently rated 73rd in use out of NC's 73 airports and establishing the testing facility will increase activities at the airport without interfering with General Aviation traffic.



Hyde County was pleased to host a joint forces Army/Air Force fly-in during the month of January. The refueling exercise brought in approximately 20 military personnel and an extensive fleet of helicopters and ground vehicles. The service men spent the night camped out in tents at the airport.

Over the last several months the Office of Planning and Economic Development has successfully worked to enter into a **Memorandum of Agreement** between NCSU and Hyde County, the Engelhard Sanitary District and one landowner of several parcels in order to strengthen an application to form an Agricultural Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA. **In February a COA for the Engelhard test site was issued.**

COAs are available to public entities who want to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in civil airspace. NCSU is the entity that has successfully applied for the COA. A COA is an authorization issued by the Air Traffic Organization to a public operator for a specific UA activity and in this case the COA will be for agricultural use. This step will allow UAV's to be flown within specific and well defined perimeters to perform agricultural testing. Such testing will identify valuable data to farmers including moisture levels and signs of disease. The testing will not interfere with general aviation and the operator of the UAV must maintain sight of the UAV at all times. **Hyde County staff are expecting flights to begin before midsummer.**

The second step after forming the agricultural COA is to submit a proposal to the FAA to become one of six UAV test sites in the nation. The FAA is in the process of selecting six UAV test sites as mandated by Congress. **In February 2013 the FAA released a request for proposals to select the test sites.** These sites are important because they will provide valuable data to safely integrate UAS into the nation's airspace by 2015 as required by the 2012 FAA reauthorization. Hyde County's test site will be competitive because of its remoteness, climate and availability of open space and water. NCSU, NC DOT Aviation and Hyde County are working diligently to submit a response to the request for proposals within the specified time frame. Our successful acquisition of the Agricultural COA will only strengthen our application.

Kyle Snyder of Next Gen Air Transportation Center at NC State spoke at two regional events in order to educate the public of our UAV efforts. In February, Snyder spoke at the **Blackland Farmer's Annual Meeting** in Plymouth and on March 1, he presented at **North Carolina's Northeast's State of the Region event in Williamston.**

Why is this important activity to the staff in the Office of Planning and Economic Development? The development of a UAV testing site in Hyde County would mean **job opportunities** in all areas from spotter's in fields initially to UAV operator's and repairmen eventually. The group is already working on getting appropriate workforce development in place at our universities and community colleges to make sure our workers are trained and ready. Also infrastructure improvements at our airport and surrounding areas will be likely.

CDBG – SBEA

The CDBG – SBEA (Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance) grant is complete pending one final draw. This grant provided financial assistance to two existing businesses in Hyde County to expand current business activities and create jobs.

Williford Auto Supply built a new NAPA Auto Parts store in Engelhard. This expansion is proposed to add six new jobs.

Williams Markets, Inc. has added a garden center to their Swan Quarter Supply & Tackle store located in Swan Quarter. Construction is complete on the garden center and has opened to customers. This addition has created two new positions.

CDBG-SBEA funds are available to counties on a rotating basis approximately every 3 years. All existing Hyde County businesses with three years of detailed financial records are encouraged to apply.

Hyde County staff went through a Department of Commerce monitoring visit in February. There was one finding for not disbursing CDBG funds within 3 days of receipt. Hyde County must not have another violation of the 3 day rule or the County will go to a reimbursement only basis for grant funds. A 2013 Annual Performance Report has been submitted.



Are you interested in applying for CDBG – Small Business and Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant Funds?? If you are make sure your business is keeping detailed financial records. They will be required for submittal at the time of application. For more information call Kris or Averi at 252-926-4400.

CDBG-SCATTERED SITES

The 2010 cycle of the CDBG Scattered Sites program is well underway. This grant, in the amount of \$400,000.00, was used to replace three (3) homes in Hyde County. Construction of these homes has been completed and the homeowners have moved in. These three homes were selected based on low-income requirements and severity of need.

There were additional funds left over in the grant, which has allowed Hyde County to select a fourth home to be replaced. This homeowner received severe damage as a result of Hurricane Irene. The Hyde County

Board of Commissioners approved a grant amendment and the environmental review has been submitted to the State. We are expecting release of the review any day.

At that time, we will begin to advertise for bids to do demolition and installation. Upon approval of the environmental review, the fourth home will be demolished and a single-wide mobile home will replace the previous structure. An Annual Performance Report has been submitted.

CDBG NC Tomorrow

The Office of Planning and Economic Development is partnering with the Albemarle Commission with funds received from the CDBG- NC Tomorrow grant. This will allow the NC Association of Regional Councils, the NC Department of Commerce's Community Development

Division, The US Dept. of Housing & Economic Development and the SAS Institute of Cary to create a Uniform NC Comprehensive Economic Strategy across North Carolina. Hyde County is receiving a portion of the grant funds for administering the 18 month long grant for a 10 County Region which

includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington counties.

This grant is in the closeout stages. The project was monitored by the Department of Commerce and a finding was made of the County having no Anti Displacement

Plan adopted. The plan will be presented to the BOC on March 4 and pending approval the finding will be lifted. A closeout Public Hearing is also scheduled at the March 4 meeting. An Annual Performance Report has been submitted.

Home Elevations – PDM & HMGP

Hyde County is moving forward with a FY 2011 **Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)** Grant project that is slated to elevate several prequalified homes in the area. The total awarded for the project from the NC Division of Emergency Management is \$411,282.75. Homeowner's contributions are required in the amount of \$137,094.25 for a total project amount of \$548,377.

For those homeowners who qualify as low to moderate income households, some additional assistance may be available to fund the homeowner contribution portion of the project. That additional funding will come from unused portions of current CDBG projects. No local funds will be contributed to this project.

On February 21, bids were accepted at the Hyde County Government Center for elevation of the homes. The bid tabs have been evaluated and will go before the BOC at the March meeting for approval.

After approval, preconstruction conferences will be held and elevation will begin.

Hyde County has applied to the **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** for hazard mitigation and disaster recovery funds provided by North Carolina state agencies in response to Hurricane Irene.

Hyde County's Planning & Economic Development staff, in conjunction with Holland Consulting Planners, submitted 15

homes to the NC Division of Emergency Management (NCDEM) for review, along with a letter of interest, a benefit-cost analysis spreadsheet, and individual files for each of the identified homeowners including a complete application for elevation, photographs of each home, elevation certificates and tax cards. In early October, Hyde County was notified that five (5) of the 15 homes are being considered for elevation assistance. Hyde County is still awaiting formal notification of award.

CDBG –Community Revitalization

The CDBG-CR grant was structured to help with revitalization of small communities needing major improvements.

The Lake Swamp Road Community in Engelhard was selected for revitalization. The community had needs in all areas including housing, water and sewer needs, drainage and site work. Contractors were selected through a competitive bidding process to build two new homes, erect a manufactured home, renovate two homes and one structure was demolished.

Public works including

County water and sewer service from the Engelhard Sanitary District have been installed at each of the home sites.

The public works component of the project consisted of installation of approximately 1,835 linear feet of 6-inch diameter potable water supply line extension, two post type hydrants, service laterals, and all related appurtenances as well as installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of 2-inch diameter sanitary force main extension, six 1,000 gallon septic tanks with simplex pumps, service laterals, and all related appurtenances.

In addition to the Lake Swamp Road revitalization, CDBG-CR provided funding to elevate a house in Scranton and replace a home in Swan Quarter. The replacement was completed in September 2012. Elevation of the Scranton home is complete.

The Hyde County Office of Planning and Economic Development, in conjunction with Holland Consulting Planners, are completing final punch list items now and working towards closing the grant. An Annual Performance Report has been submitted.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Planning Department administers a Revolving Loan Fund for existing businesses within Hyde County. The RLF program serves as an economic development tool to help foster small business in our area.

During January 2013, an existing RLF customer requested a collateral swap, swapping one source of collateral for another. The RLF Committee met to approve the transaction. The transaction was approved by the BOC and the Office of Planning & Economic Development worked with the business owners to swap the collateral.

Administration of Hurricane Liens -

The Office of Planning and Economic Development continues to manage administration of Deeds of Trust placed on homes repaired and/or replaced through state disaster assistance funds from previous hurricanes. Most Deeds of Trust from Hurricane Floyd (1999) are not due to expire until 2013-2014 resulting in frequent requests for assistance from homeowners. Averi Simmons is compiling a database of all homes with deed expirations due and will work with individual homeowners to release these deeds upon maturity.

North Carolina's Northeast State of the Region

On March 1, Hyde County officials and staff met others from around the Northeast Region at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston to discuss the current state of economic development in Northeast North Carolina.

Speakers included Kyle Snyder from NCSU discussing NCDOT Aviation's efforts in Unmanned Aircraft systems development and testing and the future test site in Hyde County; Scott Custer from VantageSouth Corp. discussing the acquisition of East Carolina Bank; David Herman the CEO of Vidant Health to discuss the future of rural health and Peter Johnstone CEO and founder of Gunboat, Wanchese Industrial Park's newest tenant discussed relocation to NC.

Vann Rogerson, President & CEO of NC's Northeast gave a regional update which included the opening of the Engelhard Marine Industrial Park and NC Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker presented her view on the future of NC. Representative Paul Tine, Senator Bill Cook and Representative Bob Steinburg among others introduced the speakers.

Ms. Alice Keeney, former Planner and Economic Developer for Hyde County and NC's Northeast 2012 Economic Developer of the Year presented the 2013 award to Mr. Bill Early.

Hycienda Heights

The Planning Department has been working in conjunction with the Mid East Housing Authority, Hyde Social Services and Hyde Soil and Water to examine housing needs at the Hycienda Heights site in Engelhard.

Mid East took control of the facility 12 years ago. Because of this tax restrictions have changed and the Authority must

examine the physical deterioration of the units and the financial position of the site. Now Hyde County is assisting Mid East in bringing the facility up to standard.

Hyde County has partnered with Mid East to submit a CDBG Catalyst Grant application. Hyde has also met with other grant funding agencies including USDA Rural

Development and the NC Housing Finance Agency.

It is hoped that the existing units will be connected to public sewer from the Engelhard Sanitary District, replacing the existing private septic tanks. This will be contingent on the CDBG Infrastructure Sewer Force Main project from page 1. Renovations to the existing facility could possibly include the renovation of the onsite Community Building to a Day Care facility.

Recreation Committee Meets

On February 5, The Hyde County Recreation Committee held its first meeting. The Committee was appointed by the BOC and consists of 11 members: 2 voting members from each township and Mr. Dick Tunnel Board liaison. Kris Noble and Averil Simmons serve as staff liaisons.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the Bylaws of the Recreation

Committee that was active in the early 2000's. The group also reviewed the Ordinance adopted by the BOC in early 2000.

The previously active Recreation Committee worked towards development of the Engelhard Development Park and the Ponzer Park. The group also worked with East Carolina University to complete a Parks and

Recreation Master Plan in 2002.

The next meeting will be on March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Hyde County Government Center and in Ocracoke via teleconferencing equipment. At that meeting, Steve Moler, Regional Coordinator for Parks and Recreational Trust Fund will speak among other business items. The meeting is open to the public.

CDBG Infrastructure Funds Sought

The Planning Department in conjunction with Public Utilities Department is applying to the CDBG Infrastructure Program for Water Line extensions in two areas of great need in the County: Mapletown Road and a portion of Pudding Hill Road and Sladesville Credle Road. After careful analysis of roads without County water, the number of

residential structures, the income levels of homeowners and grant guidelines, the project areas were selected.

Through an efficient, professional and cooperative effort, staff in the Planning Department, the Utilities Director and Water Department Staff, Justin Gibbs with GIS and Holland Consulting

Planners, an application will be submitted in record time, just less than two weeks. Everyone involved in putting this application together has demonstrated a team effort and this should result in addition of much needed County water service in areas of poor well water quality.

Hyde County is still awaiting notice of award.

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Coastal Resource Commission

The Coastal Resource Commission and Coastal Resource Advisory Council met February 6 – 7 at the UNC Wilmington campus.

Upon arrival at the meeting, press was present to take comments from CRC and CRAC members on the recent controversial Senate bill sweeping out members of key state commissions. The bill has been revised since the CRC meeting to reflect the following changes:

According to the News and Observer on February 27, "The bill, approved with a few Republicans voting against it, now goes to the full House and, presumably, to a conference

committee. Also rewritten is the provision that would remake the state Coastal Resources Commission and two other environmental boards. This version of the bill would restore some of the scientific expertise currently required of members, along with the requirement that members live in North Carolina and either reside or own property along the coast.

It would also permit four current members to continue serving until the middle of next year. Instead of reducing the commission from 15 to 11 members, it would set the commission at 13 members, nine appointed

by the governor and four by the General Assembly.

The proposal would also restore the prohibition on conflict-of-interest by restricting commissioners' income from development and real estate, and would clarify ethics requirements.

Those changes address much of the criticism aimed at the Senate version of the bill. This version was approved in the House Commerce and Job Development Committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Murry, a Republican from Cary."

Kris Noble currently represents Hyde County on the Coastal Resources Advisory Council.

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